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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Teacher's Guide is to provide teachers of grades K - 8 information and activities about the Hidatsa, Mandan and Arikara, who lived in the area of the Knife River where it enters the Missouri. This area is now Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.

This TEACHER'S GUIDE contains the following:

- Unit One     HISTORY
- Unit Two     SUBSISTENCE
- Unit Three   HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION
- Unit Four    ARTS, CRAFTS, CLOTHING AND APPEARANCE
- Unit Five    GAMES AND RECREATION

This Teacher's Guide was prepared by members of the Three Affiliated Tribes with intentions of providing educators a brief historical overview of change and continuity relative to the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara. Sources include texts, manuscripts and oral histories.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site was established by Congress in 1974. This area was once the homeland of the Hidatsa and Mandan Indians. The park, which consists of 1758 acres of land on both sides of the Knife River, is located 1/4 mile north of the town of Stanton and 60 miles northwest of the capital city of Bismarck.

Many groups of people used this area for hunting, as great herds of bison came to the river for water. The Hidatsa and Mandan lived near the confluence of the Knife and Missouri Rivers in earth-covered, dome-shaped structures called earthlodges.

The Knife River was named for a type of locally available flint. For thousands of years this quartz material was used by American Indians for making tools. Knife River flint, as it became known, was widely traded and has been found in archeological sites as far as New York, Missouri, Ohio, and Alberta, Canada.

The most famous visitors to the Knife River area were Lewis and Clark during their 1804-1805 winter encampment at Fort Mandan, located a few miles south on the east side of the Missouri. The Hidatsa village, AWATIXA (ah-wah-tee-kah), was the home of Sacagawea (Tsa-caw-guh-wee-yuh) and her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau. They were hired by Lewis and Clark as interpreters to accompany

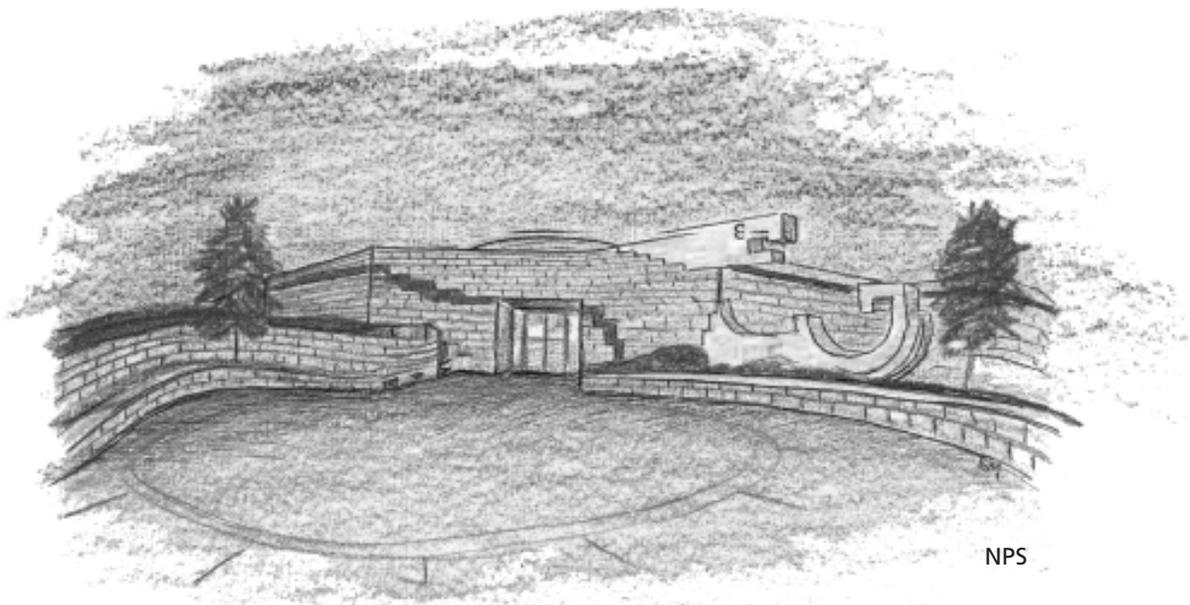
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them to find a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean. This village was later visited by other famous traders and travelers such as Alexander Henry, John Bradbury, Henry Brackenridge, Prince Maximilian, and artists Karl Bodmer and George Catlin.

Nearly decimated by smallpox in 1837 and constantly harassed by the Sioux, the Hidatsa and Mandan were forced to abandon the Knife River area in 1845.

The park contains numerous archaeological sites, including the remains of three villages which once were occupied by several thousand people, areas where small groups camped for short periods of time, trails, burial sites, and many different activity areas.

Specific information on the culture and life-way of the Hidatsa and Mandan peoples contained in this Teacher's Guide integrates the disciplines of history, social science, math, visual arts, language arts, music, and science. We would like to further develop and improve the Teacher's Guide so it can be used as an aid in teaching these subjects. Any comments will be given full consideration when the Teacher's Guide is reprinted.



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A material kit (traveling trunk) can be borrowed from Knife River Indian Villages NHS. The kit is designed to enhance the students learning experience. For more information on how you can reserve a kit visit our website at [www.nps.gov/knri](http://www.nps.gov/knri) or call 701-745-3300.

# Biography of Authors

## **Dr. Clarice Baker/Big Back, Ph.D.**

Dr. Big Back is the Academic Dean at the Fort Berthold Community College. Clarice graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 1977 with a Masters in Educational Administration and in 1993 completed her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

Professional experience includes: Director Elementary Teacher Education Program; Assistant Professor; Superintendent, Middle School Instructor; Teacher/Facilitator and Elementary Principal.

Dr. Big Back (Anee No Ho, Many Growths) is an enrolled member of the Mandan and Hidatsa Tribes. She is married to Eugene Big Back, Northern Cheyenne and has one son. Her clan is Low Cap (Apukawiku) and she is a child of the Knife Clan (Metsiroku).

## **Susan Paulson**

Susan Paulson (staWIsaaNAhkata', Yellow Cedar Woman) is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes. Susan is currently the Dean of Students at the Fort Berthold Community College in New Town, North Dakota. She has a BS degree from the University of Mary in Social and Behavioral Science and Secondary Education and a Masters Degree in Public Health from University of California at Berkeley. She is the author of the curriculum "We Are All Related, Relationships in Perspective: A Guide For Native American Youth".

Susan has two children Jazz Young Bear (Paahtu, Red Paint) and Jennifer Young Bear (skawisahnish, She Keeps the Ways of the Arikara) and three grandchildren; Jasmine, Alonzo, and Walter Toyahday Young Bear.

## **Alyce Spotted Bear Ph.D. (ABD)**

Alyce Spotted Bear is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. Her Mandan Name is Numukshemea (Guiding Women). She is a member of the Metsiroku clan. Alyce is a faculty member of the Fort Berthold Community College. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from Dickinson State College, her Masters of Education from Pennsylvania State University, and worked on her Ph.D. In Education at Cornell University.

Some of Alyce's professional positions include serving in the following capacities: Tribal Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes; School Superintendent at the Twin Buttes Elementary School; and High School Principal and federal programs manager at the Eight Mile School District Trenton ND.

## **Shannon D Fox**

Shannon D. Fox (Neht kus Na Citoux) is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. He is a member of the Awahu Band, Buffalo Society, Arikara Scout (Vet.) Society, and Dead Grass Society.